

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY  
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS**

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**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**LS 7208**  
**BILL NUMBER: SB 311**

**NOTE PREPARED: Feb 19, 2007**  
**BILL AMENDED:**

**SUBJECT:** Placement of Alleged Child in Need of Services (CHINS).

**FIRST AUTHOR:** Sen. Hershman  
**FIRST SPONSOR:**

**BILL STATUS:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading - 1<sup>st</sup> House

**FUNDS AFFECTED:**      **GENERAL**  
                                 **DEDICATED**  
                                 **FEDERAL**

**IMPACT:** No Fiscal Impact

**Summary of Legislation:** This bill requires a court to consider placing a child with a de facto custodian or stepparent before considering an out-of-home placement when a child alleged to be a child in need of services is taken into custody.

**Effective Date:** July 1, 2007.

**Explanation of State Expenditures:** This bill adds a de facto custodian and a stepparent to the list of placements which a court must consider prior to placing a child who is alleged to be a child in need of services in any other out-of-home placement. Currently, the court must consider a suitable and willing blood or an adoptive relative caretaker, including a grandparent, aunt, uncle, or adult sibling. Under the bill, the Department of Child Services (DCS) would be required to complete a home study of the stepparent or de facto custodian's home and provide the court with a placement recommendation prior to placing a child.

The DCS reports that the courts currently place children with de facto custodians and stepparents. In addition, the DCS currently requires a home study be conducted when placing a child in either type of placement. No additional expenditures are anticipated as a result.

**Explanation of State Revenues:**

**Explanation of Local Expenditures:**

**Explanation of Local Revenues:**

**State Agencies Affected:**

**Local Agencies Affected:**

**Information Sources:** Cassandra Porter, Department of Child Services.

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